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through a prism cause sadness if they impinge on the dorsal side of the subject's hand, and happiness if on the palmar side, and conversely of palmar rays, with a region of indifferent rays between. The force was later found to be conducted along the hair of the subject; through the body of a third person, unilateral phenomena were developed, new points of contact for exciting partial waking in sleep, or other specific reactions were discovered.

We have no further space to detail the maze of discoveries of laws and deductions, all derived from the study of one hysterical girl of eighteen. The last part of the book describes very briefly, and with little attempt to confirm the above results, eleven other cases of patients who showed some of the more common phenomena of hypnotism. Quite apart from all question of the validity of all these theories, they have a suggestiveness of their own as a joint product of pseudo-scientific methods gradually evolving a set of systematized symptom-reactions in an interesting hysterical subject, half whimsical originations, half subtle divination of theories of the experimenter almost before they are known to himself.

Découverte de la polarité humaine. Dr. CHAZASAIN. Paris, 1886, 29 pp.

The positive pole of a magnet, when applied to the external side of the hand or arm, foot or leg, and on the left side of the trunk and head, causes contracture, as also does the negative pole if applied to the inner side of the limbs and the right side of the body. Resolution of contractures is produced by converse applications, viz. the positive pole to the inside of the limbs and right side of the trunk. This is all duly shown by diagrams. The + and — electrodes from a constant current produce the same effects. These effects are all transposed in left-handed subjects. The so-called laws for the separate fingers and their parts are too complex for statement here. If one person touches a part of like polarity of another person, such "isonomic" contact causes contracture, while "heteronomic" contact is decontractive. Isonomic contact is also anaesthetic and reduces muscular energy; heteronomic is hyperaesthetic and increases it, and polarizing action is in general hypnogenic. Extending the hand heteronomally attracts a subject "as by an irresistible force," while isonomic positions repel. The law of transfer is derived from that of polarity, which is common to animals and plants, all being bipolar, while minerals are unipolar.

For those impressed by such conclusions it would be interesting to know how this author reconciles his conclusions with the very diverse but no less remarkable laws of Baréty.

La suggestion mentale, et l'action à distance des substances toxiques et médicamenteuses. Docteurs H. BOURRU et P. BUROR, professeurs à l'École de Médecine de Rochefort. Paris, 1887, 308 pp.

The studies here reported began in 1885, with a young man who was subject to violent attacks of hysteria. The other principal subject was a young woman. It was found that non-volatile substances placed in the hand or behind the neck of these subjects produced characteristic effects, markedly distinct, rapid and intense. In some later cases the following suggestions of Richet were observed: 1. The operator did not know what the substance was which he held either in a tightly sealed bottle or wrapped in paper, either in con-

tact with or near the subject. 2. He diagnosed from the symptoms whether it was tetanizing or emetic, morphine or water, which latter had no effect, and the problem was whether pure chance which would make one in four of these reactions right was improved upon. The results are said to have been obtained when the substances were applied while the attention of the patient was diverted and without the possibility of his knowledge. Other physicians, Dumontpellier, Thomas and Pascal in Toulon, Dècle, Chazasain and Dufour, and an officer Rochas, have announced analogous results of their own observations, which are, however, less extended than those of Bourru and Burot. The substances experimented with, besides the metals used in the metallo-therapeutic tests at first made, may be thus grouped: 1. Narcotics (opium, morphine, chloral, hashisch, atropin, narcein, codein, thebain, narcotin); 2. Emetics (apomorphin, ipecacuanha, tartarus stibiatus); 3. Purgatives; 4. Alcohols; 5. Antispasmodics (especially valerian and camphor); 6. Anaesthetics; 7. Excitants (phosphorus, nux vomica, cantharides, jaborandi and pilocarpin). Even within these seven classes the different substances often produced well differentiated symptoms, which are illustrated by ten photographs. A grave difficulty of interpreting principal from accessory symptoms is admitted, or, as we should prefer to infer from the data, the special from the general symptoms. The alcoholic symptoms seem to be most marked and most differentiated according to the form in which alcohol was used. Besides these effects, gold and mercury, the latter when hermetically sealed in a tube, produced striking effects, but with most substances sealing the glass destroys the effect. The time of application needful for generating the symptoms; the after action after the stimulus is removed, which may cease at once or may last several days; the ratio in which increasing the strength of the substance or uncovering it increases, as it confessedly does, the effects; the phenomena of physiological antagonism—all these points are left very undetermined. These facts may be called experimental determinations, and the substances act in some way by disrupting for a time the equilibrium of the nervous system.

The second part of the book is devoted to explanation of the facts. Suggestion, whether by way of expectant attention, mental, or auto-suggestion, is rejected. If there be suggestion it must be without words or gestures, and even without thought; and as the former consists in the transmission of psychic states inappreciable to the normal perspicacity or senses, the transfer cannot pass through the medium of intelligence.

Metaloscopic phenomena are most analogous to those here described. In fact it is concluded that the action of metals, woods, magnets and currents of electricity, and that of medicaments at a distance, are phenomena of one and the same order. A cut illustrates the alleged magnetic attraction of the fingers extended towards the side of his head upon the body of the patient. Even Baréty's theory of irradiating neural force is approvingly stated. Magnetic force is the term best adapted to explain the facts. These discoveries can be applied in making a physiological analysis of medicines and persons, in testing, without danger, the impressibility of individuals for substances, in codifying the hitherto empirical action of curative agents externally applied, and in opening up a new therapeutic method.

This work is the best presentation of its class of phenomena, and

is exceedingly well arranged and clearly written. The most striking of its many defects is, however, the failure to adequately appreciate the subtlety of the sense of smell, which in many experiments, some of which have been described in this journal, is shown to be sometimes, even in the normal subject, almost incredible.

Les emotions chez les sujets en état d'hypnotisme. H. LUYs. Paris, 1888, 106 pp.

This well known, somewhat speculative but reputable neurologist has also fallen to experimenting with a hystero-epileptic woman, 20 years of age, named Esther, of whom he publishes 24 instantaneous photographs illustrating her emotional reactions to 87 different substances—mostly drugs—at different distances. This subject had been a dancer and singer, was of an eminently theatrical temper, and was possessed of “a richly furnished imagination,” her “exquisite sensory apparatus” was set in action by infinitesimal vibrations. The effects produced by the different drugs were emotional. Each substance disturbed the equilibrium of the entire nervous system, so that each emotional fibre when set in vibration by the different drugs produced expressions and attitudes of fear, disgust, jollity, tenderness and passion. Even trophic effects were obtained, but not specifically studied. The emotional effects vary much with the distance of the substance, also with the motion of the flask containing the substance over or even near the skin, and still more as it is applied to the right or left side. When we reflect, however, on the fact that the range and acuteness of the sense of smell is but little known, but that from what little is known it seems incredibly fine, that some drugs are known to owe their chief medical effect to smell, that in an hysterical organism everything is possible; that the expression of many of these photographs does not correspond to the known effects of the drugs—it is plain that the experiments of Luy's were as inadequate in caution and number as his conclusions are hasty. Swelling of glands, turgescence of the face, exophthalmia, respiratory and cardiac modification, nausea, etc., are also produced and interpreted as accessory emotional effects. If the tube in which the substances were placed is empty, the reactions of the subject are interpreted now as after effects of a previous substance, now as reactions *per contra*, now as a chemical effect due to the substance of the glass itself, now as caused by air currents or coolness in approximating the glass, etc. Surely by such tests on such a subject an experimenter can prove anything, fantastic or hysterical caprice though it be. There is a ludicrous element brought out in these photographs that is irresistible. The author approximates a tube containing essence of thyme to Esther's neck on the right and her face expresses terror. When the same substance is brought around to the left of the neck she looks happy and contented. If applied to her finger it itches and Esther is depicted in the act of searching for an imaginary louse. Ipecac shows Esther about to vomit. Cognac thus applied is said to have caused the attitude photographed as Esther drunk. Water causes a scowl called hydrophobia. Under the action of valerian she is depicted as scratching gravel with her hands, while in no less than six of these photographs, interpreted as illustrating six different emotions, Esther's chief expression is exophthalmic.